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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/474,492	12/29/1999	THOMAS J. FOTH	E-974	2311
919	7590	01/14/2004	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			WASYLCHAK, STEVEN R	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3624
DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Response to Amendment

The reply filed on Nov. 3,2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): the amendment raises issues with respect to enablement in regard to accounting being relevant which Applicant objects to as not being germane. Examiner very strongly asserts that B2B transactions, as the amended terminology implies that a buyer is a corporation, cannot exist in a vacuum, that accounting according to GAAP must apply and refund accounts must be set up on both sides of the transaction. Thus a refund business transaction, as this case hinges on, cannot exist outside of the accounting framework to account for profits and loses and eventual reporting to the IRS and is thus necessary for refund account enablement. Applicant is respectfully reminded that under current case law, *In re Venner* (MPEP 2144.04 III: Automating a Manual Activity) where a process that was done manually and converted to an automation or internet procedure is not novel. See 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c): "...or the objections made." (here the Applicant's assertion of accounting not being germane is the objection referred to). Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, applicant is given a time period of **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. Extensions of this time period may be granted under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a). The Patent Office is now under a quality initiative as well as expeditious prosecution initiative.

This action is **NON-FINAL**. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven R. Wasylchak whose telephone number is (703) 308-2848. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin, can be reached at (703) 308-1065. The fax number for Art Unit 3624 is (703) 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Steven Wasylchak

SW
1/6/04

Vincent Millin

VINCENT MILLIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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